

## HIGH WATER BILLS

Leaky toilets are the causes of unusually high water bills. One leaky toilet can triple a water bill in three months. The offending part of the toilet (labeled Flapper in the diagram) tends to wear out over the years and no longer makes a tight seal. The result is a slow leaking of water. Going directly down the drain. Given the slow nature of a leak such as this you would seldom see or hear the water running.

Dripping water faucet dripping one hundred drips per minute can waste up to 33 gallons per day, a total of 1,000 gallons per month. Water dripping or running from the showerhead when the shower is turned firmly off is usually caused by a bad washer or seat which needs replacing. Also check for leaks from the tub faucet when a tub shower is on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low flow showerhead because the water you save with a low flow shower is lost from the tub faucet.

Other causes of High Bills

- Running your sprinkler for just one hour can use 400 gallons of water or more.
- Washing your car can use approximately 100 gallons of water.
- Filling a child's pool requires 40-300 gallons for each fill.
- "Topping off" a pool can use more than 2,000 gallons of water.
- Filling a hot tub uses about 500 gallons.
- Creating an Ice Rink requires approximately 4,000 gallons of water.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

So how can I tell if my toilet is leaking?? The test is simple and inexpensive. Place food coloring or non-staining dye into the toilet tank to change the color of the water. DO NOT USE THE TOILET for a minimum of 60 minutes. Before flushing, check the color in the tank. If the color has disappeared, or faded greatly, the toilet is leaking. If the water in the bowl changes color without having flushed you have a leak.

### LEAK DETECTION

Locate the water meter. On the top of the meter, you will probably see numbers and a small sweep – hand. One revolution of this hand is one cubic foot (approximately 7.5 gallons) While nobody is using water, record the reading and direction of the hand. Check again thirty to sixty minutes later. If the sweep – hand has moved, water went through the meter. Water has to pass through the meter to create a higher reading.

